

Risen, So Our Lives Are Fruitful April 28th, 2018

(John 15:1-8)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

1. Easter was a few weeks ago. Are you still full of the same Easter joy? What advice would you give to someone who has been struggling with maintaining Easter joy in the last few weeks? 2. What attitude do you think is more dangerous?

Someone who says:

"I don't need ever need to do good works."

Or...

"I am nervous that I am not doing enough good works."

- 3. What do you find comforting about the fact that we are branches connected to the Vine?
- 4. Jesus spoke these words to his disciples shortly before he was arrested and died. Jesus knew his disciples would abandon him. How does this context help us understand this parable?
- 5. God the Father is the gardener who does the pruning in our lives? Is that ever frustrating to you? Name some situations where you thought God was taking too long to produce fruit in someone's life.
- 6. What are some practical ways that Mount Olive as a church can produce good fruit to show to others that we are Jesus' disciples?